

Ask the Expert

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Laboratory evaluation of patients with common variable immunodeficiency

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Q:

4/26/2012

Prior to starting patients with CVID on SCIg or IVIg what are the current recommended labs. I have in the past performed T&B cell enumeration, T cell mitogen and antigen studies, HIV combined antibody antigen test, Hep C RNA qualitative PCR test as well as Comprehensive panel. Are all these tests still recommended? Are there additional tests or imaging studies recommended? What is the recommendation for yearly studies while on Ig replacement therapy> Thank you for clarifying this issue for me.

A:

Answer:

Thank you for your inquiry.

I am referring your question to Dr. Charlotte Cunningham-Rundles who, as you know, is an internationally recognized expert in the diagnosis and management of common variable immunodeficiency disorders. As soon as I hear from Dr. Cunningham-Rundles, I will forward her response to you.

Thank you again for your inquiry.

Sincerely,
Phil Lieberman, M.D.

We received a response from Dr. Charlotte Cunningham-Rundles. Thank you again for your inquiry and we hope this response is helpful to you.

Sincerely,
Phil Lieberman, M.D.

Response from Dr. Charlotte Cunningham-Rundles:

Be sure to do complete antibody workup for both several protein and also anti carbohydrate antibodies. We do T and B and Nk cells. I do not routinely do mitogens and antigens, but one can of course I don't see the need for routine HIV tests If liver tests are abnormal could do hepatitis tests otherwise I don't see the need. We do CBD and complete chemistries. If there is a suspicion of lung disease, complete lung functions and a chest CT. For suspicion of GI disease, other tests for that as needed (malabsorption). Other things have to attended to as appropriate.

While on IgG, we do Igs at 6 month intervals at our center but if the pt comes in only each year, then yearly at the same time, CBC and complete chemistries.

Consider complete lung functions yearly. We do not do a CT more often than every 3 or 4 years, and only if lung disease suspected or lung functions not normal.

Hope his helps!

Charlotte Cunningham-Rundles

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